



The **NORTH TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (NTAS)** meeting for **February** will be **in person and on Zoom**.

**NTAS** meetings are **free** and visitors are always welcome.

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# Benchmark

Volume 39, Issue 2

February 2025

## President's Message

We are off to a productive start to 2025. Between fieldwork, lab work, and posting up at educational expos, we continue to up the ante and engagement thanks to our volunteers.

Thank you to all who attended our January meeting on Zoom. Unusual weather patterns forced us online. But we transitioned seamlessly and our speaker, Ryan Breslawski, delivered an excellent synthesis regarding the faunal assemblages recovered from the Bois d'Arc Lake archeological sites. Anyone who missed Ryan's discussion will be able to access it on [YouTube](#). We are delighted to host again Dr. Reid Ferring on February 13 who will this time share with us some of his Old World Archeology research and fieldwork.

Some events we participated in last month are a continuation of efforts initiated by the Society months ago and a testament to our tenacity. Dana Ritchie is carrying the torch for fieldwork at the Joe Reed Site archeological investigations—and, she says the weather is so good! SMU Lab days participants have proudly made milestones in rehabilitation of some very interesting collections. Thanks to vol-



unteers who attended the Lovejoy STEM Fest representing the Society and spreading the good word of cultural resources and preservation. This month we focus on reaching out to Anthropology students in search of careers. We got them covered!

This month is indeed packed. Coming up the weekend of February 21 is a very special joint East Texas Archaeological and [Caddo Conference](#). We will continue to announce opportunities regarding lab work and fieldwork to your email inboxes each month. Don't forget that membership renewals for year 2025 are due. Last year's memberships expire March 15.

## Connect with NTAS:

[facebook.com/NTXAS.org](https://facebook.com/NTXAS.org)

[www.NTXAS.org](http://www.NTXAS.org)

For general inquiries, please contact [info@ntxas.org](mailto:info@ntxas.org)

**North Texas Archeological Society**

The February 13th monthly meeting will be a hybrid meeting in-person and via Zoom, held in our standard meeting room on the University of North Texas Health Science Center campus in the Research and Education Building (Room 114; see page 3 for map). The meeting begins at 7:00 pm and features Dr. Reid Ferring presenting, "Earliest Humans in Eurasia: The 1.8 million year old site of Dmanisi in the Georgian Caucasus."

I look forward to seeing you all at the February 13th meeting!

*Alexandra Younger*

## February Speaker: Reid Ferring

### *Earliest Humans in Eurasia: The 1.8 million year old site of Dmanisi in the Georgian Caucasus*

Located in the southern Caucasus Mountains, the Dmanisi site contains the earliest Eurasian fossils of *Homo erectus*, as well as thousands of stone artifacts and fossils of over 50 species of extinct animals. The site covers at least 40,000 square meters and has stratified deposits up to 6 meters thick, bearing evidence of many repeated occupations. Five *Homo erectus* skulls and many post-cranial bones derive from the population. Associated artifacts and faunas reveal patterns of scavenging and possible hunting, in an environment that supported many prey species and an exceptionally large group of carnivores, especially wolves and large cats. That these small humans could survive in such a hostile environment, without fire or projectile weapons, suggests strong bonds among social omnivores.

**Reid Ferring** is Professor emeritus in the Department of Geography and the Environment, University of North Texas. He earned a PhD in Archaeology at Southern Methodist University and a PhD in Geology from the University of Texas at Dallas. His research interests include Quaternary geology of North Central Texas, as well as archaeology and geology in Oklahoma, Israel, Portugal, Ukraine (Crimea) and for 30 years in the Republic of Georgia. There he has been a member of the international team working at the 1.8 million year old site of Dmanisi.



## NTAS T-shirts!!!

Show off your NTAS pride with one of these lovely shirts to wear at events or anytime!

We will have a limited number of shirts at the monthly meeting.

One can be yours by making a \$10 donation to NTAS (cash, check, and card will be accepted).



## Update Your Calendar - NTAS Monthly Meeting Speakers

**March 13<sup>th</sup>: Jenny McWilliams**

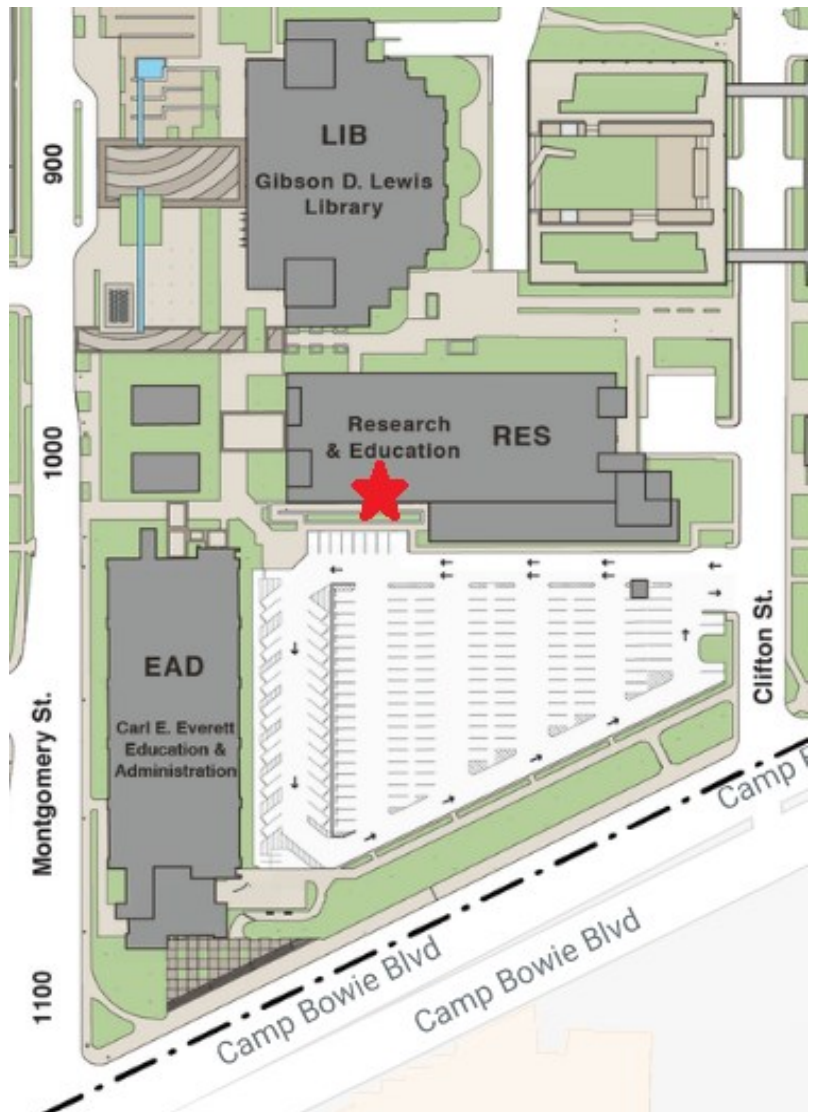
**April 10<sup>th</sup>: TBD**

**May 8<sup>th</sup>: Yonavea Hawkins**

## NTAS Monthly Meeting Location & Directions

NTAS meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month (except June and December) at the University of North Texas Health Science Center, 3500 Camp Bowie Boulevard, Fort Worth (in the **Research and Education Building, Room 114**), near the intersection of Camp Bowie and Montgomery Street.

Traveling west on I-30 from downtown, take the Montgomery Street exit. Turn right on Montgomery and continue to the five-way intersection at Camp Bowie. Turn right onto Camp Bowie, followed by an immediate left onto Clifton Street. **Turn into the first parking lot on the left (Administrator and Visitor Parking).** You will drive past an information booth as you enter the parking lot. Park on the far (north/west) end of the parking lot and enter the Research and Education building. Once you enter the building, turn right and proceed down the hallway to Room 114.



## NTAS Attends Lovejoy ISD STEM Festival at Lovejoy High School

### Allen Rutherford

NTAS had the opportunity to participate in the Lovejoy STEM Festival at Lovejoy High School on January 25th. Our members discussed archeological practice and methods, as well as artifact types and the kinds of sites one might find in north Texas, with students ranging from elementary to high school aged. Students were exposed to archeological excavation techniques and artifacts including stone tools. We were thrilled to attend and look forward to participating in the future!



Kevin Hanselka, Charlene Erwin, Gwen Durrant, and Molly Hall.

## NTAS Members at Washington-on-the Brazos

### Alexandra Younger

NTAS Members Stephen and Linda Bell volunteered at the final excavations at Washington-on-the-Brazos last month with archeologist Alexandra Younger.



## SMU Lab Update

**Jimmy Barrera**

On January 25th NTAS jumped into 2025 at the SMU Archaeological Research Collections lab. Members of NTAS continued work on collections from the Texas Archeological Society Field Schools held in 1971-1972 across various sites in Kerr County. We learned that all the great NTAS volunteers have processed over 20 boxes from these collections to date! With great enthusiasm we enjoyed visits from SMU paleontologists and other SMU researchers. The SMU lab always affords other opportunities involving research projects and archeological opportunities during each visit. Always a treat – please consider joining the upcoming opportunities to work in the SMU lab on February 22nd and March 22nd. Keep an eye on the NTAS newsletter as future dates are announced. Sincere thanks to our host Dr. Matt Boulanger and the SMU Department of Anthropology for being wonderful partners with NTAS.



Public education kit in the SMU lab.  
Photo by Jimmy Barrera.



Dr. Tim Sullivan processing collections at the SMU lab.  
Photo by Jimmy Barrera.

## Archeological Events & Opportunities

Please see the [calendar](#) on the NTAS website for the latest updates to archaeological events!

### **Fort Worth Westerners Zoom Programs**

**Third Tuesday of the Month**

Zoom

If you are not a FW Westerner member, click [here](#) to request guest access to the zoom meetings.

February 18 - *11 Days on the Colorado: The Pivotal Battle Unfought* by James E. Brasher

March 18 - *All the Sorrows of the World: Hannah Worcester Hicks & the Civil War in the Cherokee Nation*  
by Michelle M. Martin

### **Caddo/East Texas Archeological Conference**

**February 21-22, 2025**

Texarkana, TX

The ETAC will be exclusively devoted to the memory of Dr. Tom Middlebrook with participants including Patricia Allinger, George Avery, Velicia Bergstrom, Jim Bruseth, Jeff Girard, Pete Gregory, Thomas Guderjan, John Ippolito, Bo Nelson, Gary Pinkerton, Jeri Redcorn, Becky Shelton, Alan Skinner, Tamara Walter, Mark Walters and the Middlebrook family. Contact [Thomas Guderjan](#) with questions.

### **Joe Reed Work Day**

**March 8, 2025**

Parker County, TX

See pages 8-9 of the February 2024 Newsletter for details on this excavation opportunity. Contact [Dana Ritchie](#) if you are interested in participating.

### **SMU Lab Days**

**February 22, March 22, April 26, 2025**

Dallas, TX

Assist in organizing, cataloging, and re-bagging artifacts from the 1971 TAS Field School. For more information or to sign-up, contact [Brian Luetchford](#). See page 5 of this newsletter for some highlights from the most recent SMU Lab Day.

### **Astronomy at Paint Rock, Texas Virtual Meeting**

**4pm, February 16, 2025**

Online

Gordon Houston will present on the Archaic Paint Rock Pictograph site located on the Concho River.

## What Can You Do with NTAS? What Can NTAS Do for You?

### **Involve NTAS in Your Field, Lab, or Reporting Project**

Contact the [Vice President of Projects](#) if you know of a field, lab, data collection, or reporting project that could use the skilled labor of experienced and knowledgeable NTAS members.

### **Contribute Photos and Memories of NTAS Events**

Photos are a great way to showcase what NTAS is all about. We'd love to share your NTAS experiences with the world immediately following NTAS events! Please send your images and captions to the [Internet Chair](#). By providing these photos, they may be used on the NTAS website and social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram.

### **Newsletter and Journal Content**

Contribute highlights from NTAS volunteer opportunities, summaries of archeological research and field projects, announcements and links to events, exhibits, media, and publications, etc. by sending them to the [Publications Editor](#).

NTAS is now looking for articles to fill future volumes of the Journal of the North Texas Archeological Society. Please consider submitting an article about your North Texas research, fieldwork, or other related topics. The lead author must be an NTAS member in good standing for the submission year. For submissions and inquiries regarding the journal, please contact the [Publications Editor](#). The current volume (2024) is available digitally to members by logging in [here](#). Digital copies of Volume 1 and Volume 2 are available to the public [here](#), and physical copies of all volumes are available for purchase on [Amazon](#).

## North Texas Archeological Society (NTAS) Membership Application Form

(renew online by clicking above)

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

City\State\Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Membership Type and Fees (Membership Term: January to December\*)

#### Choose One:

- ☐ Individual Membership - \$20
- ☐ Family Membership - \$25  
Total Family Members \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Student Membership - \$10 (18 or older student with minimum half-time course load. Those under 18 must contact NTAS in advance of applying.)

#### Choose One:

☐ New\*

\*New memberships paid for in Oct-Dec include membership for the following year.

☐ Renewal

### Communication Preferences: I/WE want to be added to the following lists:

- ☐ General Announcements - For Meetings, Events, Publications, Membership Dues and NTAS Updates
- ☐ Personal Updates - For personal updates on NTAS members such as illnesses, and obituaries

**Digital copies of the newsletter are included with every membership.** If you are interested in receiving paper copies, please contact the Publications Editor ([publicationseeditor@ntxas.org](mailto:publicationseeditor@ntxas.org)) or Secretary ([secretary@ntxas.org](mailto:secretary@ntxas.org)) for pricing.

**Donation:** Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Where should your donation go? ☐ General Fund ☐ Memorial Scholarship Fund ☐ BaahKu Project

Would you like to remain anonymous? ☐ Yes ☐ No

**Media Release:** I/We DO -or- DO NOT [circle as appropriate] give permission to NTAS to use my/our image (photographs and/or video) in any NTAS publications, website, or social media.

**Code of Ethics (signature required):** I/WE PLEDGE THAT I/WE WILL NOT INTENTIONALLY VIOLATE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ANY FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOCAL ANTIQUITIES STATUTES CONCERNING CULTURAL RESOURCES OR ENGAGE IN THE PRACTICES OF BUYING OR SELLING ARTIFACTS FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES OR ENGAGE IN THE WILLFUL DESTRUCTION OR DISTORTION OF ARCHEOLOGICAL DATA OR DISREGARD PROPER ARCHEOLOGICAL FIELD TECHNIQUES. I/WE UNDERSTAND THAT FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES WILL PROVIDE GROUNDS FOR EXPULSION FROM THE SOCIETY.

Signature(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your Membership Form with check or money order made payable to:  
North Texas Archeological Society — P.O. Box 24679, Ft. Worth, TX 76124

Thank you for renewing or joining the North Texas Archeological Society!

## Welcome, New Members!

### Donors

Ryan Breslawski - *Memorial Scholarship Fund*  
AR Consultants, Inc. - *General Fund*  
Bill & Vicky Perdue - *General Fund*

## NTAS Aims & Objectives

The purposes of the Society are

- (1) the promotion of scientific archeological exploration and research,
- (2) the preservation and conservation of archeological materials and sites,
- (3) the interpretation and publication of data pertaining thereto, and
- (4) education of the public to the aims of archeology.

**NTAS scholarships are now available to ANYONE who applies for TAS Academies, the TAS Field School, or the TAS Annual Meeting.**

Please visit the NTAS scholarships webpage to submit your application. [Apply now!](#)

## NTAS - Preserving the Past for the Future

### Executive Committee

**Alexandra Younger**  
**President**

**Gwen Durrant**  
**Treasurer**

**Charlene Erwin**  
**Historian**

**Stephen Lowe**  
**Vice President**

**Thomas Standefer**  
**Secretary**

**Hannah Rainey**  
**Internet Chair**

**Brian Luetchford**  
**Vice President of Projects**

**Allen Rutherford**  
**Immediate Past President**

**Molly Hall**  
**Publications Editor**

## Newsletter Submission Deadlines

The newsletter submission deadlines are two weeks prior to the monthly meetings, and upcoming deadlines are listed below.

March Newsletter: February 27

April Newsletter: March 27

May Newsletter: April 24

July Newsletter: June 26

August Newsletter: July 31

September Newsletter: August 28

This program is supported in part by Humanities Texas, the state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.



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